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The China Mail

ESTABLISHED 1845

OVERLAND CHINA MAIL
(PUBLISHED EVERY
MAIL DAY.)
Contains the Weekly News
of Hongkong and the
Far East.
Price (including Postage) to any
part of the world \$12
per annum.

No. 17,112

號二十月三年八十壹百九千壹英

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1918.

午戊次歲年七國民華中

PRICE \$3.00 Per Month.

**THORNE'S
OLD VAT
No. 4.
SCOTCH WHISKY.**
SOLE AGENTS:
A. S. WATSON & Co. Ltd.
WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS,
HONGKONG.
Tel. 218

BUSINESS NOTICES
W. S. BAILEY & CO., LTD.
ENGINEERS and SHIPBUILDERS.
KOWLOON BAY.
Steam and Motor Vessels,
Steel Building Work of every Description,
Castings, Forgings, Repairs and Supplies.

**HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO
STEAMERS.**

JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT
CO., LTD. AND THE CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the following revised Passage
Fares between Hongkong & Canton will come into force on 25th March, 1918.

	Dayboats.	Nightboats.
Saloon, Single	\$5.00	\$7.00
Return	8.00	12.00
2nd Class, Single	2.00	1.80
Deck	1.00	.90

In addition to the above, for the convenience of the travelling public a special
1st Class Return Ticket at Hongkong Currency \$11. and Chinese Currency \$11.80
available one way by Railway and the other by the Company's vessels, will also
be issued.

HONGKONG-CANTON LINE.

Sailings:—To Canton daily at 8 a.m. (Sundays excepted) and 10 p.m.
From Canton daily at 8 a.m. (Sundays excepted) and 4 p.m.

SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.
HONGKONG-MACAO LINE.

Sailings:—To Macao daily at 8 a.m. (Sundays 9 a.m.) and
9 p.m. (Sundays 1 p.m.).
From Macao daily at 7.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Sundays 3 p.m.).

Further information may be obtained at the Company's Office, Hotel Macao,
or from Messrs. T. Cox & Son, Booking Agents, Hongkong.

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Established 1883
"MANUFACTURERS OF"

PURE Manila ROPE

STRAND	CABLE LAID	4 STRAND
1" to 15"	5" to 15"	3" to 10"
CIRCUMFERENCE	CIRCUMFERENCE	CIRCUMFERENCE

Oil Drilling Cables of any size up to 3,000 feet in length

Prices, samples and full particulars will be forwarded on application to
Shewan, Tomes & Co. General Managers.

Hongkong, April 11, 1918.



**WATSON'S
E**

**THE PREMIER SCOTCH OF
THE FAR EAST
FOR 25 YEARS.**

POPULARITY MAINTAINED BY ITS EXCELLENT
QUALITY. NOT BY EXPENSIVE WORLD-WIDE
ADVERTISING.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.,
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,
HONGKONG.

THE KWONG HIP LUNG CO., LTD.

(NOW RECONSTRUCTED.)

ENGINEERS and SHIPBUILDERS, BOILER-MAKERS, BRASS and IRON
FOUNDERS. All work done in this establishment is guaranteed. We have
over thirty years' experience. We own two slipways and can accommodate any craft
of 900 feet long.
Office: 45, CONNELL ROAD CENTRAL, HONGKONG. Telephone No. 240
Shed: 1, SHUN-SUI-PO, KOWLOON, HONGKONG. Telephone No. 2
Business conducted on application.
WONG TING WA, Manager
Hongkong, April 1, 1918.

BUSINESS NOTICES

TAIKOO DOCKYARD.
BUILDERS OF SHIPS & ENGINES
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION
—THE TAIKOO DOCKYARD & ENGINEERING COMPANY—
—OF HONGKONG LTD.—
AGENTS:—
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—TAIKOO DOCKYARD—

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LD.
PORTLAND CEMENT

In Casks of 375 lbs. net.

In Bags of 250 lbs. net.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.

GENERAL MANAGERS

**THE HONGKONG HOTEL
AND
GRILL ROOM**

J. H. TAGGART
MANAGER

THE PEAK HOTEL.

1,500 Feet above Sea Level.
15 Minutes from Landing Stage.
Under the Management of—
Mrs. BLAIR.

TO THOSE GOING AWAY

Keep in touch with local happenings
by subscribing to

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All the News of Hongkong and the Far East.

ORDER BEFORE YOU LEAVE, SO THAT YOU MAY RECEIVE

IT WHILE AWAY.

Price \$12 PER ANNUM, INCLUDING POSTAGE.

IT IS MAILED TO ANY ADDRESS FROM THE

CHINA MAIL OFFICE.

THE WAR.
TO-DAY'S TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

THE SHIPPING SITUATION.

STATEMENT OF LOSSES BY SIR
ERIC GEDDES.

EXAGGERATED ENEMY
CLAIMS EXPLODED.

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.

London, Mar. 20.

Sir Eric Geddes made an important
statement in the House of Com-
mons. He said the world's ocean-
going tonnage at the beginning of
the war, excluding enemy tonnage,
amounted to 88,000,000 tons. Until
December 31st last year this was re-
duced by the net figure of 24 millions,
equal to 27 per cent. of the world's
ocean-going tonnage. The percent-
age of the net loss of British tonnage
alone was 20. The Allied and Neu-
tral percentages were more favour-
able owing to the inclusion of in-
terned enemy ships by the United
States. The reason for the greater
loss of British tonnage was mainly
due to submarine warfare, specially
directed against Great Britain with
the object of starving us. The out-
put of new British tonnage in 1915
and 1916 was very low, and before
the intense submarine campaign
began we were over 1,800,000 tons
to the bad. After emphasizing that
our navigation risks were greater
than those of the Allies, Sir Eric
Geddes referred to shipbuilding. He
said that when the Shipping Control-
ler was appointed, work had ceased
on over fifty large merchantmen in
various stages of construction, owing
to lack of material and labour. At
present 47 large shipyards, contain-
ing 209 berths, were wholly engaged
on the construction of ocean-going
merchantmen. We had also enor-
mously increased the output of re-
paired tonnage.

Sir Eric Geddes proceeded to deal
with the exaggerated enemy claims
as regards sinkings. For example,
for the year ending January 31st
Germany claimed to have sunk 94
million tons of British and Neutral
shipping. The true figure was
9,000,000 tons. Our average loss in
the last quarter of last year was
261,000 tons monthly, against which
140,000 tons were built monthly.
For the same quarter the Allies and
Neutrals together were replacing 75
per cent. of their lost tonnage.
Sir Eric Geddes declared that it
was well within the capacity of
Allied yards, and even British
yards, before very long, with a
proper supply of material and man-
power, would be able to replace
entirely the world's losses, on the
present figures. (Cheers.) The
stocks of materials in the yards at
present were more satisfactory than
they had been for years. The need
at present was skilled labour, but
they were gradually getting skilled
men from the Army. Eighteen hun-
dred skilled and unskilled men had
returned to the yards up to March
18th, and 745 others were being
demobilized. Regarding the low out-
put in January and February the
conditions were abnormally bad, but
the difficulties were gradually being
overcome and he believed that the
problem was in a fair way to solu-
tion.

Sir Eric Geddes confirmed the
appointment of Lord Pirie as Con-
troller-General of Merchant Shipping
under the First Lord. Lord Pirie
will not be a member of the Board
of Admiralty, but will have direct
access to the Prime Minister and the
War Cabinet on questions relating
to shipping.

**CONSTANT CHANGES
DEPRECATED.**

Sir Edward Carson, who followed
Sir Eric Geddes, deprecated the
constant changes in methods of
shipbuilding. "This multiplication
of Controllers," he said,
"is disquieting." He would
like more information of the exact
functions of Lord Pirie. The best
plan would have been to make Lord
Pirie Controller, responsible both
for Naval and Mercantile shipbuild-
ing. Lord Pirie was a masterful
man who would fight for the Mercan-
tile Marine. Yet the longer the war
lasted the more rapidly would the
fleet wear out. Sir Edward Carson
hoped there would be no friction
between Lord Pirie and the Naval
constructors.

Mr. A. Willkie (Labour Member for
Dundee) feared that Sir Eric Geddes'
statement would cause greater fric-
tions in the yards.

**DETAILS OF EVERY NEW SHIP
TO BE PUBLISHED.**
Capt. Sir Owen Philipps (Union-
ist Member for Chester) suggested
that it would facilitate shipbuilding
if the details of every ship launched
were published.

Sir Eric Geddes, replying, pro-
mised the fullest details of every
yard and every ship.

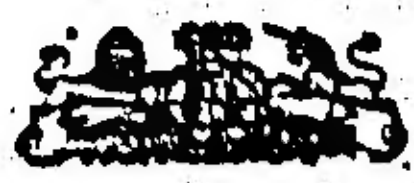
**PREMIER'S APPEAL FOR
SPECIAL EFFORTS.**

Mr. Lloyd George said there were
135 extensions of shipyards project-
ed, of which 110 were in hand. He
emphasised that Lord Pirie would
be absolutely independent, subject
only to the First Lord. The latter
would be in a position to control both
the Naval and Mercantile Control-
lers, with the War Cabinet as a final
appeal. Complete co-operation be-
tween Lord Pirie and Sir Joseph
Maclay was essential in order to
achieve the desired aims. There
was no shortage of steel supplies, but
more would be required, both for
Naval and Mercantile vessels.

Mr. Lloyd George, proceeding,
described the difficulties of with-
drawing skilled shipbuilders from the
Army—men whose skill was often
essential to batteries. He was not
going to risk the efficiency of the
Army in the field, at this very cri-
tical and perilous moment, by so
doing. The Government believed
that by special exertion the deficiency
of 120,000 tons of British shipping
could be made good, if we put our
strength into the task. The Navy's
work had been gratifying and there
had been a gradual diminution in
the losses inflicted by submarines,
which, if it continued, and if the
shipyards increased their output at
the rate of 120,000 tons monthly as
regards British shipping, or 100,000
tons monthly as regards the world's
shipping, the whole of that deficiency
could be wiped out. Such an
achievement would do more to
shorten the war than any individual
effort of which Great Britain was
capable, because it would not merely
inflict a defeat on the enemy but
bring home the fact that he could
never defeat us as Mr. Asquith had
said. The 1916 mercantile construc-
tion figures were due to the require-
ments of the Navy.

Mr. Lloyd George mentioned that
Admiral Viscount Jellicoe was re-
moved at his own request from the
Grand Fleet to the Admiralty,
specially to deal with the growing
submarine menace.

AN INSTRUCTIVE DIAGRAM.
London, Mar. 21.
The Admiralty diagram shows the
exaggerations of German claims as
regards the sinking of mercantile
tonnage. The exaggeration which
was only 40 per cent. in February
1917 was 118 per cent. in January
1918. The average exaggeration for
the year was 64 per cent.



BY APPOINTMENT.

WATSON'S PYERIS.

REGISTERED

An exact reproduction of a well-known Spa at half the price.
Blends perfectly with Spirits, especially Whisky.

"A little learning is a dangerous thing;
Drink deep or touch not the Pyerian Spring.
There shallow drafts intoxicate the Brain
And drinking deeply sobers us again."—Pope.

Pints 90 Cts. Per Doz.
Splits 60 " " "

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,
AERATED WATER MANUFACTURERS.

To-day's Advertisements

NATIONAL LOAN OF THE THIRD
YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC (1914).

SUBSCRIBERS to the above Loan
are hereby reminded that Interest
Coupons become invalid for payment
on the expiry of three years from the
date on which the half-yearly period
covered by them ends. Thus Coupon
No. 2 covering interest on the above
Loan for the period 1st January to 30th
June, 1915, will CEASE to be valid for
payment after 30th June, 1918. Bond-
holders who have not yet presented this
Coupon for payment should do so before
1st July, 1918.

F. A. AOLEN,
Inspector General of Customs.

TO LET.

FROM 1st May next, No. 1. AIBAI
VILLAS, corner of Kimberley and
Austin Road, Kowloon. One six-roomed
House, with separate bath-rooms and
kitchens. Apply to

PATELL & CO.,
King's Buildings, Top Floor.

Hongkong, Mar. 22, 1918.

PUBLIC AUCTION

THE Undersigned have received in-
structions from the Liquidator of
the HAMBURG AMERICA LINE, to sell by
Public Auction

THURSDAY,

the 25th March, 1918, at 11 a.m.,
at No. 3 Duddell Street,

A Portion of the Excellent and well
made OFFICE FURNITURE consisting of
Double Desks with Drawers, Office
Table, Large Teak Screen, etc., etc., etc.

Also
One STEEL SAFE by Arnheim, Berlin,
64 x 43 x 31.
One STEEL SAFE by Milner & Co.,
London, 51 x 48 x 28.
One UNDERWOOD TYPEWRITER,
and a number of Telegraphic Code
Books, etc., etc., etc.

On view from Wednesday, the 27th
instant.

Terms—cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, Mar. 22, 1918.

TO-MORROW'S

OVERLAND
CHINA MAIL

THE WEEKLY EDITION OF THE

"CHINA MAIL."

CONTAINS ALL THE NEWS
OF THE WEEK.

THE WEEK'S REPORTS OF THE
TRAGEDY INQUIRY.

PRICE 25 CTS. (cash) per Copy

THE CALENDAR.

MEMO FOR TO-MORROW.

11.30 a.m.—Green Island Cement Co.
annual meeting.

GENERAL MEMORANDA.

Monday, Mar. 25—

12 Noon—Annual Meeting of Hong-
kong & Whampoa Dock Co.

Tuesday, March 26—

2.30 p.m.—Auction of Furniture &c.
at Hughes & Hough's.

2.30 p.m.—Auction of Household
Linens, &c. at Hughes & Hough's.

Wednesday, Mar. 27—

Hongkong Stock Exchange Settlement
Day.

11 a.m.—Annual Meeting of Hong-
kong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

11.30 a.m.—Annual Meeting of China
Sugar Refining Co.

12 Noon—Annual Meeting of the
Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd.

Friday, March 30—

Good Friday.

Sunday, March 31—

Easter Sunday.

Friday, April 6—

11 a.m.—Auction of Messrs. Panchard,
Loverly & Co.'s Corners plant
at Matankok.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Exchange today is 3s 1½d on
demand.

Revised passage fares between
Hongkong and Canton by the Hong-
kong, Canton and Macao Co.'s steamers
are to come into force on Monday
next. Particulars appear in the Com-
pany's advertisement on the front page.

From a financial statement publish-
ed in the last Federated Malay States
Government Gazette it would appear
that during the first nine months of
last year the F. M. S. invested about
14½ million dollars in British War
Loans—making about 30 millions in all
so invested up to that date. The
presentation of a Dreadnought to the
British Navy, a cash gift which may
ultimately reach the best part of two
million dollars with more to go, is no
mean help rendered by these small
States with a population of little
more than a million, says the *Malay
Mail*. When in the years gone by the
British Government told the Malay
Sultans that British officers would
administer the Government on their
behalf, how little could the authorities
have foreseen that their trusteeship
would not only give safety to British
traders, but would ultimately be of
enormous benefit to the protecting
Power. Tin, of course, was extensively
worked by the Chinese even then, but
there was apparently no other source of
wealth from a jungle covered land which
possessed neither roads nor railways.

A LOCAL SHIPPING DEAL.

SALE OF CANTON RIVER
STEAMERS.

The well-known river steamer *Paul
Bess* and *Charles Hamilton*, which have
been on the Hongkong-Canton run for
the past thirteen or fourteen years have
just been taken off the run.

We learn unofficially that they have
been sold for the large sum of \$1,200,000.
The ships, which were specially built for
the river trade on which they have
been employed, are to be reconstructed
into sea-going vessels capable of carry-
ing a draught of about 20 ft.

Both ships are steel twin-screw
steamers of 1,671 tons gross. They were
built at Nantes (France) in 1903 for
the Messageries Maritimes and then
traded under the French flag between
Hongkong and Canton till 1913 when
they were sold to Chinese and have
since been run under the Chinese flag
under which they will continue to be
operated, for we understand they have
been purchased on behalf of General
Lung Chai Kwong who is engaged,
under orders of the Government of
Peking, in military operations against
the Southern Irreconcilables.

We further learn that the work of
reconstruction is estimated to cost a
quarter of a million dollars.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY.

An unique feature of the St. George's
Day Celebrations will be the Tombola
for which the ladies of the Colony are
responsible and for the success of which
help is asked from every member of the
community.

The Tombola scheme falls under two
heads, prizes and prizes. Thousands of
spills will be offered for sale at a dollar
each and a large proportion of these
spills will contain a number entitling the
holder to a share in the prize fund of the
Tombola bearing the same number.
Many valuable prizes have already been
presented, and, in the course of the
next few days, an appeal will be made
to the members of the Community
inviting them to spare something out of
their superfluity for a prize. Any
article with the exception of clothing
will be acceptable.

The play the *A. D. C.* has in
rehearsal on St. George's Day is that
engrossing drama by A. E. W. Mason,
founded on his thrilling novel of the
same name—"The Witness for the
Defence." Originally produced in
London some years ago at the James
Theatre, with Sir George Alexander and
Ethel Irving in the leading roles, it
enjoyed a very long and prosperous run
with several successful revivals. Quite
recently the Shanghai A. D. C. scored
a notable triumph in it. The cast
secured for the Hongkong production
the finest amateur talent assembled on
our local boards within recent years,
and a very interesting and finished
rendering of this strong play of human
emotion may safely be predicted.

GOVERNMENT SERVANT
CHARGED WITH
EMBEZZLEMENT."DRIVEN OUT OF HIS SENSES BY
MONEY LENDERS."

Albert J. Edwards, accountant and
storekeeper of the Government Civil
Hospital was charged on remand before
Mr. J. R. Wood this morning with
embezzling the sum of \$500.

Mr. Lee Longinotti, the assistant
Crown Solicitor, prosecuted.
When the case was called defendant,
addressing the Magistrate, said—"May
I make a request, Sir?"

The Magistrate: I think you had
better bear the evidence first.
The first witness called was Dr.
Johnson, the Principal Civil Medical
Officer. He said that the defendant
had been the accountant and store-
keeper of the hospital since May 1917.
One of the defendant's duties was to
receive monies from persons paying
them to the Government Treasury. On
the 17th February witness received
from the Government a cheque for
\$500 to make advances to the Chinese
staff of the hospital for the Chinese
New Year. Witness endorsed the cheque
and handed it to the defendant. At the
end of February witness received the
usual cheque for a full month's salary
from the department. This cheque
witness also endorsed and handed it to
the defendant. The defendant's duty
was to cash the cheque and to pay the
money to the staff. Witness did not give
any definite instructions as to how the
\$500 advanced to the staff was to be
recovered, whether it was to be
deducted from the salary or recovered
after the salary had been paid. But
defendant's duty was to recover the
\$500 and to remit the money to the
Treasury. On the 4th March, defendant
came to witness and asked to be
allowed half a day's leave. Permission
was granted. The next day witness
received a medical certificate from
Dr. Woodman stating that defendant
was allowed a day's sick leave. On the
6th March when witness went to the
hospital he found the defendant did not
return to office during the day. Witness
found the defendant's office paybooks
bearing the signatures of all persons to
whom advances had been made, and also
the receipt of the full month's salary.
Immediately after lunch, seeing that
the defendant had not returned, witness
reported his absence to the Colonial
Secretary, the C.I.D. and to the
Audit Department.

Defendant was searched for but could
not be found. That night between 9
and 10 o'clock witness received a
telephone message from Inspector
Davitt at Kowloon city stating that a
Chinese informed him that Mr. Edwards
was in his house. Witness told him to
bring Mr. Edwards across to Inspector
Grant at the Central Police Station.
Witness also telephoned to Inspector
Grant and asked him to send for Dr.
McKenny to be present on Mr. Edwards'
arrival as he did not know whether he
had suddenly gone ill or insane.

When witness arrived on Thursday the
7th, he found the defendant in his own
quarter lying in his bed. When he
entered the room defendant said "I
am sorry having given you all this
trouble." Witness asked him if all the
accounts were all correct and he replied
that he had been involved in money
difficulties and had used some Govern-
ment money.
Did he specify the amount?—No. I
asked him why he went away. He
said he had gone out of his mind
for sometime. He knew he had
done something wrong and had got
more and more involved. On the
morning of the 6th instant he left the
office to go and speak to a priest and
that priest advised him to go to see
witness and to give an account of his
wrongdoing. Defendant did not do
so, because he was afraid. He wished
he had done so. The next thing he
knew was that he found himself in
Kowloon. He did not know how he
got there. He walked and walked the
whole day and when he got tired he
entered a Chinese house in Kowloon city.
Continuing, witness said that after
the interview in the afternoon the office
was opened by Dr. McKenny. There
was a sum of \$399.73 in the safe,
of which \$208.96 was in cheques.
This sum had no connection with
the \$500 in connection with which
defendant was charged. A later
interview took place, again at the
Hospital. Dr. McKenny was present.
At this interview defendant again said
that he had used Government money.
He was very penitent and asked for
an opportunity of retrieving his position.
Witness told him that he was afraid he
could not do anything for him; he had
no alternative but to have him charged.
"As I have made my own bed I must
lie on it," was defendant's reply. "I
have spoiled my 15 years of good
service. I owed money to an Indian
money lender. I have paid this and 14
times over, but he has nearly driven me
out of my senses by his persecution." He
admitted he had been very foolish.
Witness said that the defendant was
his subordinate. Defendant had been
very forceful recently and often had
to be restrained.

Inspector Grant giving evidence of
the arrest said the defendant was very
dressed when he was arrested.
Mr. Li Yuk, chief clerk at the
hospital, said he received \$80 from the
defendant early in February. At the
end of the month he received \$153.60
from the defendant and repaid to him
\$80 as refund to the Government. He
did not receive a receipt for the money.
Another Chinese witness said he
received \$5 advance early in February,
and \$10 more at the end of the month.
He received the money from a Chinese
clerk in the comptroller's department.
He repaid the \$55 to the clerk.
The case was adjourned until next
Friday at 2 o'clock.

RACE COURSE TRAGEDY
INQUIRY.

ELEVENTH DAY OF INQUIRY.

The inquiry into the circumstances
attending the tragedy at the Race
Course on Feb. 28 was continued at the
Magistrate's Court this morning. Before
proceeding with the inquiry the Coroner
(Mr. J. R. Wood) said he would like
Mr. Bowley to get the *Sze Hop* firm to
make a model of sheds Nos 8 and 9.
Mr. Bowley agreed.

Mr. E. J. Grist giving evidence said
he was a member of the committee of
the Royal Hongkong Golf Club. In
the year 1911 the Golf Club committee
approached the P. W. D. with a view
to preserving the greens over which the
mats had been built. In consequence
of this representation, the P. W. D.
made the regulation to preserve the
greens. There was a suggestion made
that it would be advantageous if the
supports of the sheds were not inserted
in the ground, though as a matter of
fact there was never a hole dug in the
ground for the insertion of the sup-
ports at all.

By the Crown Solicitor: Before
that, people went across the greens
when they came out of the mats, and
that was why the caneway and the
fence at the rear of the mats were
erected. It was the Golf Club Com-
mittee who made the suggestions.

By Mr. Bowley: The mats had
been now constructed, covered a
portion of the greens. They were never
able to preserve the whole of the greens.
By Mr. Lo: They left it to the
P. W. D. to guard the safety and the
interest of the public.

W. J. Wilkinson, overseer of the
Hongkong Land Investment Co., said
he was on the top floor of shed No. 8
when the collapse occurred. His wife
and children were with him. At 2.55
p.m. he heard a cracking sound similar
to that of an earthquake. It seemed to
occur in the shed where he was. The
whole of the shed swayed to and fro
for a moment and then suddenly
collapsed. He was thrown down. There
were about 50 people in the same floor
with him. There was no abnormal
movement in the shed. He did not
notice any unusual movement of people
in the other sheds. His relatives were
buried in the debris also. When the
collapse occurred he was afraid to move
less some debris might strike him. When
he got up he saw a fire in the partition
between sheds No. 8 and 9. It was
on the partition on a level with the
first floor. It was a very small fire and
seemed as if it had just commenced.

He was of opinion that this fire started
subsequent to the collapse. He fought
his way through the roof and got to his
family out. They crawled along the
roof and got down on to the Wong Nei
Chong Road. When he got down, the
fire was burning fiercely. Witness was
of opinion that the 300 bodies found
near sheds 8 and 9 were pinned down
by the boards during the collapse. He
did not think the stairway collapsed
independently. Shed No. 8 fell in the
direction of shed No. 9. He was
perfectly sure of that.

By the Crown Solicitor: He got his
family home, but soon returned as he
missed one of his daughters. When
he arrived there he saw 200 bodies
approximately in the position where he
saw the fire commence.

By Mr. Bowley: He did not climb
over the railings whilst getting away
from the fire. He got through an
opening from the railings. Part of the
railings were taken away during the
collapse to allow access to the sheds. He
saw two chuties on the first floor of
shed No. 8. He could not say whether
they were slight at the time of the
collapse. He could see the first floor
of shed No. 8 from the top floor which
was only a half floor. The first floor
contained about 200 persons. They
were constantly moving about. When
the sheds began to crack people in the
first floor rushed to the door.

By Mr. Stevenson: When he re-
turned the Fire Brigade was already at
work. There was no pressure of water
to work the hose at all. The time
would be about twenty to thirty
minutes past two.

By Mr. Lo: He was of opinion that
shed No. 8 collapsed first, knocking down
shed No. 9 with it.
By the Coroner: He did not see the
shed falling vertically at all. What may
have happened was a general movement
causing the upright poles to shift be-
cause they were not inserted in the
ground. The upright poles should have
been inserted at least three feet in the
ground. He saw an apprenticeship in
the building trade. His opinion was
that the collapse was due to the up-
rights giving way. It looked as if the
uprights of shed No. 9 were not pro-
perly placed.

By Mr. Bowley: He had been in
Hongkong for 28 years. He had frequently
seen upright poles inserted three feet
in places where the ground was soft. If
he were supervising the construction of
the mats he would have all the upright
poles inserted at least three feet in
soft ground. He considered the
site where the mats were built to be
soft ground. He had experienced a
turf ground. The ground must be soft
at least one foot for the turf to grow.
He admitted that the ground would be
harder in dry weather. He expected to
find it soft in wet ground. If the
upright poles of the mats had been
inserted in the ground to any extent
at all there would have been no collapse.
For this was no ordinary collapse in any
sense. He believed the uprights must
have gone down through movements at
the base of the sheds. The bracing of
the uprights to sleepers on the ground
would not afford sufficient stability to

the sheds as the lashing could be loosened
by constant movement of people
above. Partitions made of mats and
bamboo would not affect the stability
of the mats at all. In his opinion
a party wall could be safely attached to
any set of uprights or uprights on the
exterior wall of the shed.

By the Coroner: He considered the
difference in the change of construction
of floors at different levels in the sheds,
a risky change, as the power of
resistance to a thrust was not so great.
It would be quite safe to build three-
storeyed mats, if they were
only properly constructed.

Chui Chow, a Chinese boy, said that on
28th February he was on the first floor
of shed 13. He felt a cracking sound
coming from the floor of the stand and
not the roof. The floor was full of
people. There was a stampedale after
the cracking sound and the shed came
down in five minutes. He came out of
roof, and he noticed a fire in No. 11.
There was no fire in shed 13. There
was no fire further on.

Mong Sui Hing, No. 2 boy of the
Golf Club, said that at the time of the
collapse he was in the Golf Club. He
saw the whole row of mats fall in with
a very sharp crack. He ran inside
and ran upstairs and closed the windows,
and then waited the Europeans in the
Club. He was told to get buckets of
water ready and to take the things out.
He saw no fire until a quarter of an
hour after going up.

The Coroner:—Where did you see
the fire?—Between sheds 9 and 10.

By Mr. Bowley: He fetched the
water from the kitchen. He had only
two buckets.

By the Coroner: It was very
difficult to say if they could put the
fire out. He did not know whether the
burnings were tampered with. He did
not know what caused the collapse.
When he saw the mats collapse he
went to close the windows. His
instructions were to open the windows
during tiffin time and to close them
after lunch. When he saw the fire it
was on the Golf Club side. When he
saw the fire the fence between the Golf
Club and the Racecourse had been
knocked down.

J. J. Gast, a warder at Victoria
Jail, said that at the time of the collapse
he was standing in the Grand Stand
enclosure, just at the top of the slope.
He first heard a crack, and looking
he saw a booth second or third from
the Golf Club side—about shed No. 16
—collapse to the south. A few seconds
after, the whole row fell like a pack of
cards. He rushed to the race track and
into the middle of the booth and
assisted in extricating women buried
under the debris. A few minutes after
he saw the fire. He continued working
until the fire drove him and a soldier
away. He first noticed the fire in the
night. He was then in 9 or 10 booth.

By the Crown Solicitor: He did
not see any sign of a stampedale before
the collapse.

By Mr. Bowley: He had been to
the sheds by passing through the rails
in front of the sheds.

By the Coroner: He had been to
the Japanese shed and also to shed No.
12. The Japanese shed was pretty
full, but shed No. 12 was not so full.

By Mr. Lo: He heard a shout of
fire a few minutes after he had gone to
the rooms of people in the shed. The
interval between the collapse and the
fire was very short.

J. M. Dyer, a clerk in the Police
office, said he was in sheds 4, 5 and 6
at the time of the collapse. He
first saw the sheds shake and
then sink. He remained in the
shed three minutes after the collapse,
helping people out. When he got out
himself he saw smoke issuing out from
a point between sheds 7 and 8.

By the Crown Solicitor:—He first
saw people standing nearest the door
making a rush outside. He did not
know why they did so and thought
some trouble was going on outside and
that people had gone out to see. The
partition of the shed No. 7 fell into the
shed where he was.

J. C. West, principal warder of the
Victoria Goal, said he was in the Grand
Stand enclosure when the collapse
occurred. He heard somebody beside
him call out "mats, falling." He
looked up at once and saw all the
booths fall to the left of him,
commencing with booth No. 16. He
saw the fire between booths Nos. 12
and 13.

By the Crown Solicitor: He saw no
stampedale.

By the Coroner: The roof of the
mats were built in such a way that
it resisted water. The upright poles of
the sheds seemed to witness to point
towards the centeries behind.

By the Coroner: Chui, a partner in shed No.
15, said he inspected the shed previous
to the collapse. The shed was built on
the same plan as that of last year. He
saw the fire near sheds Nos. 8 to 10.
The fire did not break out in sheds 12,
13, 14 or 15.

The inquiry is proceeding.

BRUTAL MURDER AT YEE HO
STREET.

TWO CHINESE CHARGED.

At the Magistrate's Court this morning two
Chinese sugar sifters were charged with
the murder of Lai Mao, a sugar sifter
in the employ of the China Sugar
Refinery, on the 15th instant.

Defendants pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Dyer Ball remanded the case
until next week.

THE EPIDEMIC DAILY RETURN.

To-day's return for the 24 hours ended
March 21st shows 16 cases of cerebro-
spinal fever. There were 12 deaths.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

A FORGED BANK NOTE.

The Criminal Sessions were re-
sumed this afternoon, before Sir
William Rees Davies, K.C., Chief
Justice.

Cheung Chung was charged with
uttering a forged bank note and
with being in possession of a forged
bank note.

The Attorney-General appeared on
behalf of the Crown and the accused,
who pleaded not guilty, was un-
defended.

The jurymen were:—Messrs. A.
G. Hewlett, N. S. Brown, W. L.
Wells, M. A. Razack, J. M. Wong,
P. V. H. Botelho and T. Arnott.

Opening the case for the Crown,
the Attorney-General said the charge
involved two elements. He had got
to prove first that the accused passed
the note and secondly that the
accused knew at the time that the
note was forged. The note in question
was a five-dollar note of the
Chartered Bank which had been
altered to appear to be a one hun-
dred dollar note. The evidence was
that on February 15, the prisoner
went to a beef stall in the Central
Market and asked a man to change
this note, which was done. The man
at the beef stall afterwards discover-
ed that the note was a forged one,
and eventually the prisoner was
arrested. The Attorney-General said
he did not think there was any dis-
pute on the question of the passing
of the note; he thought the defence
was that the prisoner did not know
at the time that the note was forged.

To prove prisoner's knowledge, the
Attorney-General said he would
direct the attention of the jury to
two things in the evidence. One
was the fact of the accused going to
the beef stall to get the money
changed, when there were plenty of
money changers' shops close at hand
and the other point was the fact that
the prisoner is known to have passed
off a similar forged note on a friend
in a gambling shop. There was
another point and that was that the
accused was a shop coolie and one
would like to know what a shop
coolie was doing with a \$100 note
and how it came that a shop coolie
had notes to the value of \$185
which were found on him when he
was arrested. It was rather a big
amount for a shop coolie to carry.

N. J. Austin, a cashier in the
Chartered Bank, gave evidence as
to the notes being forged.

After hearing further evidence the
jury found the prisoner guilty.

His Lordship sentenced the ac-
cused to five years' imprisonment
with hard labour.

THE BANK OF CANTON, LIMITED.

The Report of the Board of Directors

as follows:—

Gentlemen,—The Directors have now
to submit to you a general statement
of the affairs of the Company and Balance
Sheet for the year ending 31st Decem-
ber, 1917.

The net profits for that period, after
paying all charges, and providing for
BONUS, Bad and Doubtful Debts, leave
\$269,750.73, which added to balance
brought forward from 1916, \$27,071.12
amounts to \$296,821.85 for appropriation.

It is now proposed to deal with the
net profits as follows:—

To transfer to Reserve	Fund.....	\$120,000.00	
Transfer to Invest-	ment Reserve Fund	20,000.00	
Write off Furniture,	Fixtures & Vail.	164.55	
Write off Stationery	Account.....	3,182.24	
Write off Under-	writing Commission	Account.....	30,000.00

"After making these transfers there
remains for appropriation, \$123,475.05,
out of which the Directors recommend
the payment of a dividend at the rate
of 6 per cent. p.a. on the capital. This
will amount \$22,504.28, leaving a balance
of \$40,970.77 to be carried to new
Profit and Loss Account.

Shareholders will see with satisfaction
that the present Balance Sheet shows a
substantial increase in profit when
compared with that of the previous year.
This increase is chiefly due to the
exchange operations which are con-
stantly increasing in volume.

Our Shanghai Branch which
was established in May 1916, was also
able to show a small profit at the close of
this year.

Our Canton Branch has again made a
good profit, notwithstanding the
difficult circumstances under which it is
operating.

Taking this in consideration I feel
confident that the Balance Sheet will be
received with great satisfaction.

Last June Mr. Lau Ting Sam resigned
of his own accord, and Mr. Ma Ying
Pui was appointed Director in his stead,
which appointment requires confirma-
tion at this meeting.

In accordance with the Articles of
Association, Mess

TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

HOLLAND'S SHIPPING

DEBATE IN THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, Mar. 21.

In the Second Chamber at The Hague, M. Louw, Foreign Minister, stated that the placing of the ships at the disposal of the Allies was not a breach of neutrality. The Government at first intended to refuse the use of Holland's shipping, but reconsidered the question in view of the interests of her industries, and the shipping of the Colonies involved. He said the intention of the associated Powers appeared to be to requisition the whole of Holland's shipping outside Dutch ports, namely, a million tons.

A long debate followed in which a number of members protested against the proposed agreement and criticised the attitude of the Government. M. Troelstra, the leader of the Social Democrats, said he hesitated to declare that the Government was departing from neutrality and reserved his decision until after the Government's reply. He urged Holland to endeavour to obtain wheat from Ukraine.

M. Louw replies on the debate to-morrow.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

ENEMY RAIDS REPULSED.

LONDON, Mar. 20.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We repulsed raiders southward of Passchendaele and northward of Poelcapelle, taking prisoners.

Hostile artillery firing was active in the La Bassée Canal, Bois Grenier and Pusschendale.

THE FRENCH LINE.

ATTACK BY STOSSTRUPPEN COMPLETELY DEFEATED.

LONDON, Mar. 21.

A French communiqué states:—There has been artillery activity between Miette and the Aisne, also in Champagne.

Artillery firing was somewhat violent on the right of the Meuse and at Parroy Wood.

In the Woëvre region and Bois Brede the enemy heavily attacked. After a stiff fight we ejected the parties which had gained a footing on some of our advanced elements.

The enemy attack on Sonain, mentioned this morning, was carried out by two battalions of *stosstruppen*, who suffered heavy casualties and were completely defeated.

Our aeroplanes dropped 13 tons of bombs behind the enemy lines and a number of explosions and two fires were observed.

SUBMARINE WARFARE.

BRITISH SHIPPING RETURNS.

LONDON, Mar. 20.

The Admiralty issues the following returns for the week:—

Arrivals	2,098
Sailings	2,317
Vessels sunk (over 1,000 tons)	11
Vessels sunk (under 1,000 tons)	18
Vessels unsuccessfully attacked	11
Fishing vessels sunk	2

FRENCH SHIPPING RETURNS.

LONDON, Mar. 20.

The French shipping returns for the week are as follows:—

Arrivals	975
Departures	920
Vessels sunk (over 1,000 tons)	2
Vessels sunk (under 1,000 tons)	2

ITALIAN SHIPPING RETURNS.

LONDON, Mar. 20.

The Italian shipping returns, issued for the week ending 16th instant, are as follows:—

Arrivals	407
Departures	422
Steamer sunk (over 1,000 tons)	1
Sailing vessel sunk (over 100 tons)	1
Sailing vessel sunk (under 100 tons)	1

AMERICA AND RUSSIA.

AMERICAN AMBASSADOR ON THE SITUATION.

STILL AN ALLY OF RUSSIA.

Moscow, Mar. 21.

The American Ambassador has been asked, whether in view of the ratification of the Peace Treaty the American Consulate would leave Russia. He has replied:

"I will not leave Russia until forced to do so. The American Government and people are too deeply interested in the prosperity of the Russian people to abandon Russia to the Germans, and will do their utmost to safeguard the real interests of the country. If the brave and patriotic Russian people will for the time abandon their political disagreements and act resolutely and vigorously they will be able to expel the enemy and guarantee a lasting peace for itself and the whole world by the end of 1918. My Government still counts America as an ally of the Russian people. We are ready to help any Government which will sincerely organise a vigorous resistance to the German invasion."

BRITAIN'S CONSTANT DESIRE FOR PEACE.

PRINCE LICHNOWSKY'S MEMORANDUM.

DISCUSSED IN REICHSTAG.

AMSTERDAM, Mar. 21.

A message from Berlin states that Prince Lichnowsky's Memorandum, which was cabled on the 15th inst., was discussed by the Main Committee of the Reichstag on the 16th.

The Vice-Chancellor, Herr von Payer, said that Prince Lichnowsky, in the course of a statement to Count Hertling on the 15th instant, said that the Memorandum was intended only for his family archive. He showed it, on the assurance of absolute secrecy, to a few political friends. He deeply regretted the vexatious indiscretion by which it was more widely circulated. Herr von Payer added that Prince Lichnowsky had resigned his Ambassadorial rank and as he was obviously only guilty of imprudence no further steps would be taken against him.

Herr von Payer proceeded to contradict some of Prince Lichnowsky's assertions, declaring that the key to Prince Lichnowsky's mistakes were false conclusions regarding events before the war. It was probably Prince Lichnowsky's over-estimate of his own services and his hatred of those who did not recognise his achievements as he expected.

Herr von Payer declared that the entire Memorandum was penetrated by a striking veneration for foreign diplomats, especially British, whom Prince Lichnowsky described in a truly affectionate manner, and by an equally striking irritation against almost all German statesmen. The result was that Prince Lichnowsky frequently regarded Germany's most zealous enemies as her best friends, because they were personally on good terms with him. The aim of the Memorandum was obvious, namely to show how much better and more enlightened Prince Lichnowsky's policy was, and how he could have assured peace for the empire if his policy had been followed.

[The Memorandum, referred to, was written in August, 1914, by Prince Lichnowsky on German policy when he was Ambassador in London, for the purpose of expounding and justifying his position to his personal friends. One of these copies, through betrayal, reached the Wilhelmstrasse. "The British statesman's aim," he wrote, "is not to isolate Germany but to get Germany to participate in an already established concert by removing causes of friction between England and Germany and securing a world peace by a network of agreements."]

THE GALLIOLI OPERATIONS.

NO ISSUE OF A MEDAL OR RIBBON AT PRESENT.

LONDON, Mar. 22.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Macpherson (Parliamentary Secretary to the War Office) stated that he did not intend to issue at present a special Imperial medal or ribbon for operations in Gallipoli.

TROUBLE AVERTED.

That little cold and sore throat of yours must be checked at once or it may develop into something worse. Take a few doses of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and your troubles will soon vanish. For sale by all Chemists and Druggists.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, Mar. 19.

The Silver Market is firm, with limited supplies.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT FIXING PRICE.

LONDON, Mar. 19.

The Times Washington Correspondent states that a Bill is being introduced in Congress authorising the Government to melt down and sell 200,000,000 silver dollars out of the 400,000,000 now in the Treasury vaults. It is understood this will be virtually equivalent to the Government's fixing the price of silver at about a dollar an ounce. Silver producers and dealers have agreed informally to sell the country's entire output for the next year or two at a fixed price, probably ninety-eight cents or a dollar an ounce, to replace the silver dollars melted down for export to India, China and Japan.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

GENERAL ACTIVITY ON FRENCH LINES.

LONDON, Mar. 20.

A French communiqué states:—There was fairly great enemy artillery activity in Champagne, on the right of the Meuse and in Woëvre.

After lively bombardments the enemy at several points on the Front engaged in infantry actions which, however, were abortive.

An enemy *comp-le main* north-east of Reims was arrested without difficulty. The enemy tried to attempt to reach our lines in the Soudan sector, but our violent fire compelled him to withdraw with serious losses.

A strong enemy attack south of Arras in Lorraine resulted in violent hand-to-hand fighting. We partly gained the advantage and repelled the enemy, taking some prisoners.

DISAFFECTION IN BALUCHISTAN.

PUNITIVE MEASURE ORDERED.

LONDON, Mar. 20.

The Press Bureau states that the attitude of the Maris in Baluchistan is unsatisfactory. They have committed numerous outrages against telegraphs, trains and Government property, and have attacked our posts at Gumbaz and Fort Munro. They were repulsed with heavy casualties but are still defiant. Punitive measures are now ordered.

THE EMPIRE'S MILITARY EFFORTS.

THE PART OF THE SMALLER COLONIES.

LONDON, Mar. 19.

The War Cabinet's report for 1917 says that the smaller colonies and protectorates have contributed their full share to the military effort of the Empire. Labour corps from the Eastern colonies have been sent to Mesopotamia and East Africa, and despite the unfavourable conditions, to the Western theatre. A large number of individuals from overseas possessions such as the Malay States and Hongkong have also joined the Imperial forces.

REPLANE FIGHT OFF BORKUM.

ENEMY MACHINE BROUGHT DOWN.

LONDON, Mar. 20.

The Admiralty announces that a British seaplane patrol in Heligoland Bight engaged two seaplanes ten miles north-eastward of Borkum on Tuesday. They drove down one in flames. All our machines returned.

GERMAN PROPAGANDA IN SHANGHAI.

A "Scotchwoman" writes to the "N.C.D. News":—

"May I, through the medium of your esteemed daily, make public an experience which happened to me the other day. I boarded a tram car in the Hongkong district. I entered there were only two Chinese passengers and a middle-class type, in the car. At the first request stop, a well-built Hun got in, and after glancing round, sat down directly opposite the Chinese, and in a bland manner said: 'Good morning, gentlemen.' They returned the salutation and he immediately entered into conversation with them. His manner was all that could be desired, until he introduced the subject of the European War, and the there came a regular explosion of wrath and insult against the English. To say he called us no good is putting it very mildly. Then he went on to explain how strong Germany had become, 'since we have subdued Russia, we have taken her land, her navy, her money and made her army demobilise,' adding naively, 'how it is up to your country to join our Fatherland, before it is too late, or your country will become the same as Russia in a short time.' A great deal more talk went on, in which he took care to point out the benefits China could gain, etc., if she would only go over to Germany."

"Now I made my blood boil to have to sit and listen to such lies and rubbish, but I could do nothing, dear Sir, in the circumstances, considering I am only a woman, four feet ten inches, and he was a man over six feet. However, I feel bound to make my protest against such propaganda being allowed."

"There was quite a lot of discussion about why the Hun should be interned, but lately it seems to have been forgotten. I consider it is a very real evil in our midst, and such experiences should help to disillusion any Ally or neutral who still lives in the hope that the Hun are harmless in Shanghai or elsewhere. Hoping you may find space to insert the protest—Yours, etc."

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

[Chinese Mail Service.]

THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL SITUATION.

PEKING, Mar. 21.

Chu Shu-tsung summoned the representatives of the Provinces to hold a Conference at the Tukuwan's Yamen at Tientsin and it was decided to continue fighting, although Yochow has been re-taken, owing to possible changes in the situation along the Yangtze Valley.

The Palace Conference has decided to order the Northern troops to continue fighting the South.

A telegram has also been sent to the Provinces urging them to continue making preparations for fighting.

Tsun Chun-tsun has telegraphed that since the Southerners have retired from Yochow the Northerners have regained Jao, and in view of the critical situation in foreign and domestic affairs it is imperative to make peace immediately.

Nei Sze-chung has telegraphed urging Tuan Ki-sui to come out and requesting the Government to avail itself of the successful advance on Changsha. Tuan Ki-sui replied expressing his willingness to come out if the Yangtze Valley Tukuwans will support him.

Nei Sze-chung has telegraphed to the Palace asking why Li Shun has despatched troops to Chuchow and Kwai-chow, numbering about two divisions, and requesting the Government to instruct him to withdraw them immediately.

Tao Kwan has informed Chang Juk-tung that it is not necessary to come to the South, because Yochow has been re-taken.

The Government has decided to re-capture Changsha before they make peace.

Chang Juk-tung has again telegraphed to the President direct declaring that he must form a strong Cabinet. He is also sending delegates, Lau Hung-yun and Kam Ting-fun, to Peking to discuss the matter.

Chu Shu-tsung has asked Tao Yui to get Tao Kwan to head a telegram recommending Tuan Ki-sui as Premier. He has sent six representatives to Hupai to see Tao Kwan.

Fung Yuh-shung has telegraphed to the Government that disturbances in the interior of Anhui were created by other soldiers and bandits, and requested the Government not to mistake them for his troops.

THE PROPOSED BOND ISSUE.

The Intelligence Bureau of Canton communicates the following:—

Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Generalissimo of the Military Government, has approved of the National Assembly in Extraordinary Session in Canton declaring as unconstitutional and illegal the proposed Domestic Bonds of the Seventh Year of the Republic to be issued by the Peking Government.

In accordance with the resolution of the National Assembly in Extraordinary Session, the Rules and Regulations of the Ministry of Finance governing the issue and circulation of the Domestic Bonds of the Seventh Year of the Republic shall be at once repealed, neither the Bureaus of Communications of China nor the people may possess or negotiate the bonds referred to; and the Civil Government of all provinces are notified to retain all contributions and indemnity funds usually due to Peking, but not to spend them at will until a legal government is re-established and the National Assembly decides on their proper disposal.

The Diplomatic Corps in Peking will be advised of the action of the National Assembly in Extraordinary Session.

The National Assembly is expected to meet in regular session on June 12. For military purposes the Military Government took over the Canton-Samshai Railroad, replacing the managing director sent from the Peking Ministry of Communications with one from a similar department of the Military Government.

General Tan Hui-ming reports that the Southern troops have re-occupied Yochow in Hunan.

A FAMILY NECESSITY.

Every family should be provided with Chamberlain's Pain Balm at all times. Sprains may be cured in much less time when promptly treated. Lame, black, lame, shoulder pains in the side and chest and rheumatic pains in some of the fingers, for which it is especially valuable. Try this liniment and become acquainted with its qualities and you will never wish to be without it. For sale by all Chemists and Druggists.

THE KOWLOON BOWLING GREEN CLUB.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Kowloon Bowling Green Club was held at the Club pavilion last evening at 5.30 p.m.

Mr. W. Davison presided and there was a good attendance of Club members. After the Hon. Secretary, (Mr. D. S. Cooper), had read the notice convening the meeting and the minutes of the last meeting, the President said the members had had the balance sheet in their hands for some time and he proposed to take it as read. He thought it would be found very creditable, as the profit on the working of the Club was \$1,358.94.

The bar had brought in a considerable sum of money, more than ever before, and he did not think the Club ever stood in a better financial position. It would be noticed that it was proposed to give an honorarium to the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer and he hoped it would meet with general approval. The work was very hard and he thought it was the duty of the members to see that these officers were rewarded in some way. He hoped that the members would pass this unanimously when the motion was put. The membership this year had increased by twelve and the total membership now stood at 142. He thought it was only right that he should express thanks to Messrs. Owens and Oswald for presenting a prize for the Rink competition, for which they were all very grateful. The Club had been very successful in competitions, being second in the League, and he hoped next year they would be still more successful and be first. All the members played well but did not always turn up when wanted—(Laughter). They had lost by death during the year one of their most popular members in Mr. John Henderson who was practically one of the founders of the Club, and up to the time of his sickness he had been a regular attendant. The Committee had sent a small token to be placed on his grave. He was sure they all deeply sympathised with Mrs. Henderson in her bereavement.

The President then proposed and Captain Murray seconded the adoption of the Report and Accounts and the motion was carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. W. Davison, in accordance with the usual custom of the Club, retired from the President's Chair and Mr. J. E. Chapman was elected, by ballot, to fill the office.

Mr. W. J. Owens was unanimously elected Vice-President.

Mr. D. S. Cooper and Mr. J. Morris were re-elected Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively, the ballot being unanimous.

The following Committee was elected:—Messrs. D. Gow, W. Russell, D. Neilson, D. Harvey, J. S. Mackintosh, C. Atkinson, A. M. Simpson and V. C. Labrum.

Mr. Owens expressed thanks for the honour accorded him in being elected Vice-President and hoped the Club would have as good a season this year as last. He hoped Mr. Chapman would soon be able to be with them. The good season last year was principally due to the efforts of Mr. Davison, and he asked the members present to drink the health of their retiring president.

Mr. DAVISON expressed thanks and said he was particularly grateful for the help he had received from the Committee during the past year.

The following members promised to present cups, as follows:—Messrs. W. Davison, W. J. Owens, W. Russell, D. Gow, C. Atkinson, B. M. Dyer, D. Harvey and G. R. Edwards (Bowler); Messrs. A. Milroy and Neilson (Golf); Messrs. J. Ross and R. Hall (Tennis); Mr. J. B. Chapman will also present a cup.

Mr. D. Gow, on behalf of Mrs. Henderson, then thanked the members for their vote of sympathy and undertook to convey the information to Mrs. Henderson.

A vote of thanks was then warmly accorded the retiring president and the meeting terminated.

"How I spent Christmas" has formed many a chapter of matter for periodicals. One who did not confess was Yenchow. He would have said rather than let it be known that he gave his Christmas leisure to blowing soap bubbles for the children and "humping his shoulders" while pretending to be a giant. But the picture is pleasant, less than that of Carlyle, remarking to Moncure Conway, "Christmas Day I—ah yes I had forgotten, but remarking that the crowd at the public house at the corner was larger than ever. I did remember that it was the birthday of their Redeemer."

Despite the seasonal indignation at the shams of polygamy made against Germany, German sexual morality has been not less seriously undermined than the idea of honesty, which is entirely disregarded by large sections of the population. Great infant mortality, combined with an equally great decline in the birth-rate, is causing much alarm, hence the change in the attitude towards illegitimacy and the adoption of a policy of wholesale legitimization in other words, clandestine polygamy.

Reviewing the economic year 1917, the "Blutsack-Wirtschaftliche Zeitung," which uncompromisingly declares that "millions must starve," its pessimism as long as the German Empire remains, admits that "hardships connected with Germany's future economic life are not wanting." It points to the enormous increase of taxes to the working classes, accompanied by an increase of prices, while the salaries of officials remain unchanged. Unquestionably great suffering exists among the very large class of persons with small fixed incomes, 21-12

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GERMANY AT THE START OF 1918.

Reports of explosions in Germany are becoming increasingly numerous, notwithstanding all the efforts of the German authorities to suppress them, writes an Amsterdam correspondent. A Karlsruhe telegram to the "Frankfurter Zeitung" states that an explosion occurred at certain munition factories, presumably caused through improper manipulation of the ammunition. A fire followed the explosion, and three persons were killed and five injured. The damage, says the telegram, was relatively slight. Experience shows that these notices are never inserted in the German Press unless absolutely necessary in order to reassure the public. Slight explosions are left unreported.

The Mannheim "Volkstimme" reported a serious explosion in munition factories at Kirchheim, near Forbach, followed by an extensive fire, and the death or injury of many people. Apparently this explosion and fire are identical with those reported from Karlsruhe as very slight.

These repeated explosions are causing considerable anxiety in military quarters, not only because of the interference with the supply of munitions thereby occasioned, but also because of the spirit of unrest in the districts where they occur. This unrest has been acute since the advent of the frost, with the attendant suffering and the paralysis of potato transport.

The air-raid reprisals undertaken by the Allies are, I have good reason to know, having a most salutary effect in awakening the population to a sense of the consequences produced by the Germans' ruthless air raid policy. Only by this means can the German home population be brought to realise their own mistakes. Every Entente air-raid is a most valuable educational influence in this direction. Great nervousness is felt throughout Germany, especially in the more exposed parts, by the intention of the Americans to invade Germany by air. This subject is universally discussed, though efforts are being made to calm the uneasiness by declarations about American bluff.

Recent complaints of potatoes being given to pigs are true, but they only convey part of the truth. Very large quantities of potatoes are being employed for feeding the horses of the German Army, and potato stocks for human food are not likely to be increased by any reduction in this demand, which the German authorities endeavoured to keep secret.

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universally admitted that the system of maximum prices is bankrupt, the fair and equal distribution of provisions is intended to promote being non-existent owing to unwhimsical violations of the law. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, German officials to look with confidence to the coming struggle in the West. The Kaiser appears to be taking a keen personal interest in the preparations there, having apparently revived the ambition he expressed at an earlier stage of the war in English—"I mean to do what Napoleon could not do—I mean to take Dover and Calais."

SPORT.

CRICKET.

88th Co., R.G.A. v. 63rd Co., R.G.A.

The match for the Royal Artillery Cricket Cup between the above teams was played at Happy Valley, yesterday. Both sides displayed good bowling form, consequently scoring was low. The 88th Co. were all out for only 59, and their opponents were only able to make 24. There will be a re-play.

C.C.C. v. KOWLOON C.C.

This league fixture will be played to-morrow at 2 p.m. at Happy Valley. C.C.C. team:—A. W. Grimmett, J. S. Graham, F. B. Thompson, T. F. Ford, A. Arculli, G. Manley, M. H. Albani, J. D. Norris, J. S. W. Pittard & Bass.

K.C.C. v. C.C.C.

This League fixture will be played to-morrow at 2 p.m. at Happy Valley. K.C.C. team:—J. B. Robinson (Capt.), J. Stalker, F. H. Cobb, A. A. L. K. Macaskill, L. J. Blackburn, L. R. E. Hodge, C. J. Stapleton, F. E. Jossland, W. J. Elson and K. Pestonji.

KOWLOON CRICKET CLUB TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

The entries for all but one of the events in this Tournament are very satisfactory and the List will be closed on Sunday the 24th instant. In view of the very small number of entries for the Ladies Singles (competitors being confined to relatives of members), it has been decided to make this an open event, and it is hoped that many ladies, though they have no connection with the Club, will enter. Competitors are requested to send their names to Mr. L. J. Blackburn, Hon. Secretary of the Kowloon Cricket Club before April 1st, when the list will be closed.

AMERICANS KEPT IN CAGES IN POE.

With the American Army in France, Feb. 22, 1918. Associated Press. American officers at the front have been taken from German prisoners of war, including commissioned and non-commissioned officers after being captured. They are being kept in cages for four days without food and compelled to stand all the time. At the end of the four days only small quantities of food are to be given. Although definite information on this point is lacking, some American soldiers today expressed the belief that the order resulted from the difficulties the Germans probably experienced in tracking information from the front. Such treatment of prisoners, it is felt, could be designed only to give up military information.

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AMOI & SHANGHAI	SUTANG	Mar. 23, at 10 a.m.
SHANGHAI	SHANGHAI	Mar. 23, at 3 p.m.

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TIENTSIN	CHIPSHING	SUNDAY, Mar. 24, Daylight
MANILA	TUENSANG	FRIDAY, Mar. 29, at 3 p.m.

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	* Kaga Maru, 12,300 tons	SAT.,	13th Apr. 11 a.m.
Nagasaki, Kobe & Yokohama	* Aki Maru, 12,500 tons	SAT.,	20th Apr. 11 a.m.
	* Tango Maru, 12,500 tons	SAT.,	18th May, 11 a.m.
Shanghai, Moji & Kobe	{ Rangoon Maru, 8,000 tons	WED.,	27th Mar.
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